

Gretna, on down into Sarpy County would have been much more serious. The very real protection that was afforded those communities as a result of that construction, in my opinion, justifies a very serious consideration as to whether or not this legislature wishes to attempt to meet its responsibilities. I know that one million dollars is a lot of money and two million is twice as much and that is also a lot of money. We are facing tens of millions of dollars of damages, not all of which of course would have been prevented or even minimized had we had a better plan an operat on. But, once we establish a Natural Resources District and we charge them with the responsibility of conserving and enhancing the Natural Resources of the state then I believe that it is behooving to us to attempt at least sincerely to follow their recommendation. Now, if they say that they need four million dollars and we give them a million dollars, we can hardly hold them responsible in the event that the job that we have assigned to them is not completed. On the other hand I agree, and you will recall that I have stood on this floor and have been critical from time to time on some of the actions of the NRD's. I believe that the NRD's have matured, they have grown up, they have developed sound working relationships with local boards of local communities and very frankly they hold the key to the development of the Natural Resources of this state, and to the protection of the citizens and our resources. We have an obligation as members of this Legislature to attempt to fulfill their request and I would hope that we will continue as we have in the past to monitor their activities and I would say this, that I have asked for information from the NRD's and have found them to be cooperative. I've not always agreed with their conclusions, I have not always agreed with their projects, but then that is not my responsibility, the local boards, the elected boards and management have that responsibility and generally in view of the fact that they are new, young and growing and developing they have made it well. I would hope that you would adopt this amendment and in some small way, at least attempt to minimize the damages that can occur. You heard this morning of the flooding in Hastings. Floods, windstorms, natural disasters are not confined to any one area. Any area can suffer this kind of damage, and we have to depend upon those districts to meet and address that problem. As I said before, and I raise the question, it is kind of prophetic I believe, I raised the question when this bill was moving across the board as to whether or not the recommendation of the budget committee was adequate. At that time I was assured that it was, it was the realistic approach, and I dropped my objections to any increase in those funds. It was rather ironic I believe then, that within a few short days we find ourselves under emergency conditions appropriating an additional 1.4 million dollars to meet those needs as caused by the flood. We are in no way, in no small way are we ever going to cover those total losses. The citizens of this state expect this Legislature to be responsible and the citizens of this state have found some deficiencies in several areas and flood prevention is one of them. We placed some additional money in the budget for studies for the Platte River, but we had a very good example of what can happen to the Platte River when it goes a little wild. I would suggest that we need a little less study and a little more action. This legislature, the Budget Committee will closely monitor the activities within the NRD's, the Natural Resources Commission. I have no fear of